

REMARKS

Claims 1-99 are pending.

Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 15-22, 24, 26 - 33, 35 - 38, 40 - 62, 65 - 73, 75, 77 - 81, 83 - 87 and 88-99 were rejected.

Claims 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 23, 39, 63, 64, 74 and 82 were considered inadequately supported such that no opinion was rendered.

Claims 25, 34 and 74 were considered to meet the criteria set out in PCT article 33(2)-(4).

Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 21-23, 26-28, 31, 53, 57, 59, 60, 62-65, 69, 72-74, 77-78 and 96, renumbered as 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 21-23, 26-28, 29, 50, 54, 56, 57, 59-62, 66, 69-71, 74-75 and 92, are amended herein.

New Claims 96-109 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 29-30, 35 and 80 have been cancelled.

Substitute pages 27-39 reflecting the above claim amendments are enclosed.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his indication of allowable subject matter in originally numbered Claims 25, 34 and 76, now renumbered as Claims 25, 32, and 73, respectively. In view of the Examiner's reasons for allowing originally numbered Claims 25 and 76, -- i.e., "the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest ... the use postal system to generate lottery tickets," Applicant has amended originally numbered independent Claims 15 and 67, now renumbered as Claims 15 and 64 respectively, from which Claims 25 and 76 depend, to state that the transaction is a ticket purchase transaction. Accordingly, Claim 15 now teaches a payment system for conducting a ticket purchase transaction over a communication link and presenting an indicium based on the received data. Similarly, Claim 67 teaches a method of conducting a ticket purchase transaction over a communications link wherein an indicium is presented on a medium based on the received data.

Having amended originally numbered Claims 15 and 67 in view of the Examiner's reasons of allowable subject matter in originally numbered Claims 15 and 76, Applicant believes that originally numbered Claims 15 and 67, now renumbered as Claims 15 and 64 respectively, are in condition for allowance.

With regard to originally numbered Claim 34, now renumbered as Claim 32, this claim ultimately depends from originally numbered independent Claim 31, now renumbered as Claim 29, which Applicant has amended, for reasons stated below, and believes to be allowable. Accordingly, originally numbered Claim 34 is also believed to be allowable based on its dependency from originally numbered Claim 31, as amended.

II. PCT Rule 66.2(a)(iii) Rejection

Figures 11 and 12 were objected to under PCT Rule 66.2(a)(iii) as containing defects in form or content. More specifically, the Examiner states that Figure 11 lacks "program 1100" and Figure 12 "lacks the flow box designated as 1210." Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for pointing out these defects in Figures 11 and 12 and have, accordingly, amended Figures 11 and 12 to include program 1100 and flow box 1210. Support for these amendments to the figures may be found in the specification on page 21, line 12 and page 23, line 32, respectively. No new matter has been added.

Applicant submits that the reasons for the Examiner's objection to Figures 11 and 12 have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn and substitute pages, which include amended Figures 11 and 12, be entered.

III. PCT Article 33(2) Rejection

The Examiner has rejected originally numbered Claims 29-33, 35, 36, 79-81 and 83-87, now renumbered as Claims 29-31, 33, 76-77 and 79-83, respectively, under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Chickneas, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,813,912). It is the Examiner's position that "Chickneas discloses a postage printing system in which an epoxy is used as a potting material to encapsulate part of the printing system." Further, "this system also includes a tamper detection system in a wire filament that will be broken when someone attempts to tamper with the postage printing system." (See, Examiner's Written Opinion, section V.2.1.1). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position. However, in response, Applicant has cancelled originally numbered Claims 29-30, 35 and 80 and have amended originally numbered independent Claims 31 and 79. More specifically, originally numbered Claims 31 and 79 have been amended to state that "the print head assembly operation is terminated when an intrusion is detected." Support for the amendments to originally numbered Claims 31 and 79 may be found in the specification on page 9, lines 3-5, which state, "when carrier 289 is broken because of a tampering attempt, control logic 291 accordingly switches to the second state **where the operation of device 103 is terminated.**"(emphasis added).

Claim 31, as amended, requires an apparatus to have a print head assembly responsive to at least one signal and a sensor for detecting an intrusion on a connection wherein the sensor and connection are encapsulated in potting material. Further, when the sensor detects an intrusion, the operation of the print head assembly is terminated.

Chickneas, on the other hand, discloses a device, which for security reasons is partially enclosed in potting material and also uses a cipher key to encrypt data

transmitted to a printer. The printer uses a cipher key to decrypt an encoded message before printing. (See Col. 6, line 32-34, "[t]he printer after decrypting the fixed pattern, in turn will print on the document the information communicated"). To provide tamper security, Chickneas discloses a wire of small cross-sectional area that is enclosed in the potting material and is connected to a Tamper Latch. The presence of the wire **is operable for defining a portion of a cipher key**. More specifically "[o]ne bit of the cipher key is provided by an easily borken [sic] conductor having a small cross-sectional area" (see Col. 2, lines 62-64). An attempt to remove the potting material will cause a breakage of the wire, thereby invalidating the cipher key and rendering the microcomputer inoperable for decrypting the data to be printed. Thus, the breakage of the sensor wire causes the enabling cipher key data to become disabling, thereby preventing meaningful alphanumeric characters from being printed.

Accordingly, Chickneas discloses a device that encodes and decodes data using a cipher key and one bit of the cipher key is created by a hardware function, -- *i.e.*, a single wire within the potting material. In this device, when the wire is broken, the cipher key is effectively destroyed and decryption of any encrypted data is no longer possible. Thus, when tampering is indicated, the device of Chickneas causes a disruption in the encryption/decryption process and although the printing is unintelligible, the processor and printer remain in communication. In Applicant's invention, on the other hand, when tampering is indicated the operation of the device is terminated. There is essentially no communication between the processor and the printer.

Therefore, the device of Chickneas does not anticipate Applicant's invention. Chickneas does not disclose terminating operation of the device when tampering is detected, as is done in Applicant's invention.

Having shown that the cited reference does not contain the elements of the instant invention, Applicant submits that their invention, as recited in originally numbered Claim 31, is patently distinct from, and not anticipated by, the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and originally numbered Claim 31, now renumbered as Claim 29, be allowed.

With regard to originally numbered Claims 32, 33 and 36, these claims depend from, and include all the subject matter of, originally numbered independent Claim 31. Accordingly, Claims 32, 33, and 36 are also allowable based on their dependency from independent Claim 31.

With regard to originally numbered Claim 79, the Examiner recited the same reason for rejecting this claim as recited in rejecting originally numbered Claim 31. As previously stated, Applicants have amended originally numbered Claim 79 in a manner similar to the amendment made to originally numbered Claim 31. Therefore, the remarks made herein in regard to originally numbered Claim 31, which are also applicable in response to the rejection of Claim 79, are thus repeated herein.

Accordingly, for the reasons recited herein, Claim 79 is patently distinct from, and not anticipated by, the cited reference. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and Claim 79, now renumbered as Claim 76, be allowed.

With regard to originally numbered Claims 81, and 83-87, now renumbered as Claims 77 and 79 - 83, the Examiner rejected these claims as being anticipated by Chickneas. As discussed previously, Chickneas discloses a device for printing using

an encryption/decryption process having a hard-wire connection that is used as one bit of the cipher key.

Originally numbered Claims 81 and 83-87 teach a method of generating fluorescent markings along with postage indicium. Chickneas does not disclose or discuss fluorescent marking. Accordingly, Chickneas does not anticipate the present invention because device of Chickneas does not disclose fluorescent markings, as is done in Applicant's invention.

Applicant's invention, as recited in Claims 81 and 83 - 87, is not anticipated by the cited reference because the cited reference does not contain the elements of the instant invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and originally numbered Claims 81 and 83 - 87, now renumbered as Claims 77 and 79 - 83, be allowed.

Based on the cancellation of Claims 29, 30, 35 and 80 and the amendments made to the Claims 31 and 79, and the remarks made, herein, Applicant submits that the reasons for the Examiner's rejection of originally numbered Claims 29-33, 35, 36, 79-81 and 83-87 have been overcome and can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and these claims be allowed.

IV. PCT Article 33(3) Rejection

Originally numbered Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 15-22, 24, 26, 28, 37, 38, 40-62, 65-73, 75, 77, 78, and 88-99, now renumbered as Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 15-22, 24, 26, 28, 34, 35, 37-59, 62-70, 72, 74, 75, and 84 - 95 were rejected under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious in view of either Calvi (U.S. Patent 4,580,144) or Sansone (U.S. Patent 4,673,303), or Gilham (U.S. Patent 5,122,967 or 5,200,903 or 5,408,416) or

Abumehdi (U.S. Patent 5,508,933) or Naclerio (U.S. Patent 5,583,779) or Windel (U.S. Patent 5,680,463 or 5,712,916 or 5,734,723). It is the Examiner's position that any one of the cited references discloses a postage metering system that "dispenses an account for the postage used by the system. Once postage is to be dispensed, these systems combine variable and fixed data for the indicia and mail piece and then print the fixed and variable data on either a strip of tape or the mail piece." (See Examiner's Written Opinion, section V.2.2.1). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position. The cited references, individually or in combination, do not disclose, suggest or provide the motivation for one skilled in the art to develop the novel features taught by Applicant's invention.

The instant invention, as recited, for example, in amended Claim 1, teaches printing images of indicium after an appropriate accounting and payment is made. In this embodiment of the invention, an interface for communicating data concerning the amount of payment is established to an external accounting unit to reduce the fund stored in the accounting unit. Further, a processor generates signals that are representative of at least an image of a indicium that is indicative of the payment. A printing mechanism, responsive to the signals from the processor, prints at least the image of the indicium on a roll of label stock.

Calvi, on the other hand, discloses a device that is a thermal version of a mechanical impression-contact printing mechanism. In the Calvi device, fixed or permanent, data of an indicium is stored on a drum and the fixed data is printed on paper by a heat source within the drum. Variable data, such as postal value, is also thermally printed on the paper using a second thermal printing source. This second thermal source is independent of the first thermal printing source. According to Calvi the image is thus printed in two parts -- *i.e.*, first the fixed image is printed, then the

variable image is printed. Calvi does not disclose or suggest any "accounting or payment before printing of the indicia" as is done in Applicant's invention. Hence, Applicant's invention is not obvious from the disclosure of Calvi.

Sansone, similar to Calvi, discloses an ink-to-drum printing mechanism having a first region and second region. The ink-to-drum printing impresses indicia onto a paper. In Sansone, ink is applied to a first region, which is printed with fixed data. As the drum rotates, ink is applied to the second region, which is printed with variable data. Thus, Sansone, merely discloses a two part indicia printing mechanism and does not disclose or suggest "any accounting or payment before printing of the indicia" as is done in Applicant' inventions. Hence, Applicant's invention is not obvious from the disclosure of Sansone.

Windel ('463) discloses a method of determining suspicious operation of a postal meter by monitoring the use and rate of postal meter updating at a central office. When the criteria of suspicious operation is satisfied, then the appropriate postal authority is informed of the suspicious operation. Windel does not disclose or suggest "accounting or payment before printing of the indicia" as is done in Applicant's invention. Hence, Applicant's invention is not obvious from the disclosure of Windel '463.

Windel ('916) discloses a method of encoding a combination of numbers onto a postal indicia and then evaluating the encoded information to determine fraudulent use of the postal meter that generated the postal indicia. Windel does not disclose or suggest "any accounting or payment before printing of the indicia" as is done in Applicant's invention. Hence, Applicant's invention is not obvious from the disclosure of Windel '916.

Windel ('723) discloses a method of scanning an imprint that includes a security marking having different levels of reflectivity. Windel does not disclose or suggest "any accounting or payment before printing of the indicia" as is done in Applicant's invention. Hence, Applicant's invention is not obvious from the disclosure of Windel '723.

Gilham ('903) discloses a franking device that is physically connected to a computer terminal and accepts input data, for example, address information and postage value, from the computer terminal. For security reasons, the key elements of the franking device are in a secure housing (see, Col. 3, lines 5-10 which state, "a micro-computer, memories that are used for accounting of the postage amount franked and an I/O port are housed in a secure casing which can be sealed by the postal authority.") Only the I/O port is accessible from the exterior to the housing. The printing device and the accounting unit are internally connected in order to provide security and to prevent tampering.

Gilham does not disclose or suggest using "an external accounting unit," as claimed, because using an external accounting unit would destroy the underlying purpose of the Gilham device. Gilham discloses a secure franking device with limited I/O capability for mailing address and postal value information. Using an external accounting unit would compromise the disclosed franking device as the external accounting mechanism may be compromised independently of the franking device. Accordingly, Applicant's invention is not obvious in view of Gilham because Gilham does not disclose or suggest using an external accounting unit as is done in Applicant's invention.

Gilham ('416) discloses a franking device that may print postal indicia on pre-printed labels. Further, for accounting purposes, the device retains a summary of the

amount of postage used. In accordance with the principles of the device, after the mail items are printed, the mail items may then be taken to the postal authority and the total postage due is paid. (see Col. 7, lines 5-8). Gilham does not disclose or suggest "accounting or payment before printing the indicium" as is done in Applicant's invention. Hence, Applicant's invention is not obvious from the disclosure of Gilham.

Naclerio discloses a method for preventing fraudulent use of indicia data that is sent from a postage meter to a remotely located digital printer by including a data transfer encryption engine in the postage meter and a similar decryption engine in the printer. Without the proper encoding of the transmitted data, the printer is not able to print intelligible information. Thus, Naclerio merely discloses a method of using a smart printer to prevent the unauthorized printing of postage indicia. Naclerio does not disclose or suggest "any accounting or payment before printing of the indicia" as is done in Applicant's invention. Hence, Applicant's invention is not obvious from the disclosure of Naclerio.

Abumehdi discloses a franking device that generates human readable security markings that are different for each successive franking operation. These different security markings are generated even if the date and the value of the postage charge remains the same for a number of mail items. Further, Abumehdi discloses an internal accounting unit to account for the amount of postage franked. In order to provide a compact form and to prevent tampering Abumehdi discloses a label device and an accounting unit that are internally connected within the same device. Accordingly, Applicant's invention is not obvious from the disclosure of Abumehdi.

Applicant's invention is not obvious in view of the cited references because the cited references, individually or in combination, do not disclose, suggest or provide the motivation for one skilled in the art to develop the novel features claimed in Applicant's invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

With regard to originally numbered independent Claim 15, Applicant, as previously discussed, has amended this claim in view of the Examiner's reasons for allowing Claim 25. Claim 15 as amended, claims a system for ticket purchases over a communication link and presentation of an indicium based on data received over the data link. As previously discussed, none of the references cited disclose or suggest communicating over a communication link to an accounting unit to record payment of at least the transaction amount. Accordingly, Applicant's invention, as recited in originally numbered Claim 15, is not obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited references. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and Claim 15 be allowed.

With regard to originally numbered independent Claim 37, now renumbered as Claim 34, this claim claims a dispenser to provide a medium and printer to print non-fluorescent postage indicium and florescent markings on the medium. None of the references cited disclose or suggest printing non-fluorescent postage indicium and florescent markings on a medium. Accordingly, Applicants' invention, as recited in originally numbered Claim 37, is not obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and Claim 34 be allowed.

With regard to originally numbered Claim 45, now renumbered as Claim 42, this claim claims printing a first and a second machine readable image, which are separated from one another. The first readable image represents postal data and the second image represents data for recovery of at least part of the postal data. None of the cited references disclose or suggest using two images physically separated, where the second image is used to recover part of the postal data that is stored on the first image. Accordingly, Applicant's invention, as recited in originally numbered Claim 45, is not obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and Claim 42 be allowed.

With regard to originally numbered Claim 53, now renumbered as Claim 50, Applicants, in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this matter, have amended this claim. More specifically, Claim 53 has been amended to state that the posting indicium is a 2-dimensional image. Claim 53, as amended, claims an apparatus for dispensing label stock onto two parts of a mailpiece, -- *i.e.*, one part for an address and a second part for a 2-dimensional bar code postage indicium. None of the cited references disclose or suggest using two part address and 2-dimensional postage indicium.

Accordingly, Applicant's invention, as recited in originally numbered Claim 53, is not obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and Claim 50 be allowed.

With regard to originally numbered Claim 57, now renumbered as Claim 53, this claim claims a method for a label device, similar to the apparatus claimed in originally numbered Claim 1. Applicant, thus, repeats those same remarks made in

regard to the rejection of Claim 1, which are applicable in response to the rejection of Claim 57. Accordingly, Applicant's invention, as recited in originally numbered Claim 57, is not obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and Claim 53 be allowed.

With regard to originally numbered Claim 67, now renumbered as Claim 64, this claim claims a method for a payment system similar to the system claimed in originally numbered Claim 15. Applicant thus repeats those same remarks made in regard to the rejection of Claim 15, which are applicable in response to the rejection of Claim 67. Accordingly, Applicant's invention, as recited in originally numbered Claim 67, is not obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and Claim 64 be allowed.

With regard to originally numbered Claim 88, now renumbered as Claim 84, this claim claims a method for a payment system similar to the system claimed in originally numbered Claim 45. Applicant, therefore, repeats those same remarks made in regard to the rejection of Claim 45, which are applicable in response to the rejection of Claim 88. Accordingly, Applicant's invention, as recited in originally numbered Claim 88, is not obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and Claim 84 be allowed.

With regard to originally numbered Claim 96, now renumbered as Claim 92, this claim claims a method for a payment system similar to the apparatus claimed in originally numbered Claim 53. Applicant, therefore, repeats those same remarks

made in regard to the rejection of Claim 53, which are applicable in response to the rejection of Claim 96. Accordingly, Applicant's invention, as recited in originally numbered Claim 96, is not obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and Claim 92 be allowed.

With regard to originally numbered Claim 3, the Examiner rejected this claim as being obvious in view of either Calvi, or Sansone, or Gilham, or Abumehdi, or Naclerio, or Windel. It is the Examiner's position that "weight is a vital factor in determining postage" and it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill that systems of either of the cited references requires the use of a scale or other weight determining means. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position, as the references do not disclose or suggest using a weight determining means. Rather, the cited references disclose entering an amount that will be used to generate postal indicium. For example, Gilham, ('903) discloses the "user entering the postage value required" (see, Col. 3, lines 51-52); Abumehdi discloses "the user operates the keyboard ... and enters a value of postage charge" (see, Col. 3, lines 60-62); and Naclerio discloses "transmitting said encrypted postage indicia data to said digital printer" (see, Col. 5, lines 1-2). As shown, the cited references merely require an entered value of postage and not a weight determining means to determine a postage value.

Accordingly, Claim 3 is not obvious in view of the cited references, as the cited references do not disclose or suggest using a weight determining means to determine postage value. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and Claim 3 be allowed.

With regard to originally numbered dependent Claims 2-7, 10, 11, 16-22, 24, 26-28, 38, 40-44, 46-52, 54-56, 58-62, 65-73, 75, 77, 78, 89-95 and 97-99, these claims dependent from and include all the subject matter of originally numbered Claims 1, 15, 31, 37, 45, 53, 57, 67, 88 and 96, which are believed to be allowable. Accordingly, Claims 2-7, 10, 11, 16-22, 24, 26-28, 38, 40-44, 46-52, 54-56, 58-62, 65-73, 75, 77, 78, 89-95 and 97-99 are also allowable based on their dependency from these allowable independent claims.

Having shown that the cited references, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest or provide the motivation for one skilled in the art to develop the novel features of Applicant's invention, the reasons for the Examiner's rejection of the claims have been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

V. PCT Rule 66.2 Objection

The Examiner has objected to originally numbered Claims 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 23, 39, 63, 64, 74, and 82, now renumbered as Claims 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 23, 36, 60, 61, 71 and 78, under PCT Rule 66.2, as lacking clarity because practice of the claimed invention is not adequately described in writing. More specifically, regarding originally numbered Claims 8 and 63, the Examiner states "the ability of selecting a second image to be printed with postage indicium by the user lacks support within the disclosure." Regarding originally numbered Claims 12 and 14, the Examiner states "the use a label which either disintegrates under stress or deforms under stress lacks support within the disclosure." Regarding originally numbered Claims 23 and 74, the

Examiner states "information concerning biometrics in the indicium lacks support."

In regard to originally numbered Claims 39 and 74, the Examiner states "since the system is directed to a system which uses preprinted labels, where the preprinted label include fluorescent marking, the printing of a fluorescent marking on the medium lacks support in the disclosure."

Originally numbered Claims 9, 13, and 64 are also objected to as they depend from objected to Claims 8, 12 and 63, respectively.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statements that the subject matter of these claims lack support in the specification. More specifically, with regard to 8 and 63, support for a second image may be found in the specification on page 17, lines 28-37 and page 18, lines 1-3. The specification discloses a backup code -- *i.e.*, a second image, that may be used to detect or correct errors in the primary code in case of damage to the primary image. Furthermore, Figure 7 depicts an example of a backup image, in this case, a 1-D bar code. Accordingly, there is adequate support in the specification for the subject matter claimed in Claims 8 and 63. However, Applicant has amended Claims 8 and 63 to read "at least one image other than the image of the postage indicium is printed on the roll of label stock."

With regard to originally numbered Claims 12 and 14, support for the subject matter claimed is included in the specification on page 17, lines 8-16, which state "[I]f the label material is not transparent ... it may be desirable to use perforated or segmented label material which would splinter and thus self-destruct, when removed ... Alternatively, it may be desired to use label material which would be stressed and deform when removed from a mail piece..."

Accordingly, there is adequate support in the specification for the subject matter claimed in Claims 12 and 14. However, Applicant has amended the specification to include the language of Claims 12 and 14, which was originally filed with the specification. Thus, no new matter has been introduced. That is, the specification has been amended, on page 17, lines 8-16, to read: "[I]f the label material is not transparent ... it may be desirable ... to splinter and thus self-destruct or disintegrate when removed ... Alternatively, it may be desired to use label material which would deform under stress of removal from a mail piece..."

With regard to originally numbered Claims 23 and 74, support for the subject matter claimed is included in the specification on page 24, lines 19-25, which state, "[t]he server system encrypts the received PIN using a well known encryption algorithm and then transmits data concerning an indicium including the encrypted PIN." Further, a machine readable encrypted PIN is disclosed on page 25, lines 1-7, which state, "[m]achine readable portion ... the encrypted PIN, a public key and a digital signature." Furtherstill, biometrics is disclosed on page 26, lines 24 - 29, which state, in part, "a PIN is provided by the person conducting the transaction for verification of his/her identity. It will be appreciated that for identification purposes, the person may provide personal data concerning his/her biometrics, e.g., his/her retinal pattern, DNA composition, fingerprints, etc., instead of the PIN." Accordingly, there is adequate support in the specification concerning biometrics, which is the subject matter claimed in originally numbered Claims 23 and 74.

With regard to originally numbered Claims 39 and 82, it is the Examiner's position that the disclosure is directed to a system which uses a pre-printed labels,

where the preprinted label includes fluorescent marking, thus the printing of a fluorescent marking on the medium lacks support. Applicant submits that support for the printing of fluorescent marking is included in the specification on page 11, lines 29-33, which state, "[I]n addition, ... fluorescent marking, e.g., a fluorescent stripe, is preprinted on a label before an indicium is printed thereon, or printed along with the indicium." Hence, the printing of both the fluorescent marking and the postage indicium on the medium, the subject matter of originally numbered Claims 39 and 82, is contemplated and adequately disclosed in the specification.

Having shown that the subject matter of originally numbered Claims 8, 12, 14, 23, 39, 63, 74 and 82 is adequately supported in the specification, Applicant submits that the reasons for the Examiners objection to these claims have been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and these claims be allowed.

With regard to originally numbered Claims 9, 13 and 64, these claims were objected to as depending from objected to originally numbered Claims 8, 12 and 63, respectively. As has been shown, Claims 8, 12, and 63 have adequate support in the specification and are allowable. Accordingly, Claims 9, 13 and 64 are also allowable based on their dependency from Claims 8, 12, and 63.

Based on the amendments made to the specification and to the claims, and the remarks made herein, Applicant submits that the reasons for the Examiner's rejection of the claims have been overcome and can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

VI. New Claims

With regard to new Claims 96-107, no new matter has been entered. Support for these claims may be found on page 26, lines 14-21, which state "it will be appreciated that the disclosed methodology for conducting a financial transaction, e.g., entering a lottery game, using a postal fund will have many other applications, including purchasing game tickets, theater tickets ... and conducting other transactions." Accordingly, adequate disclosure of the subject material claimed in new Claims 96-107 is included in the specification.

With regard to Claims 108 and 109, no new matter has been entered. Support for these claims is found in original claims 21 and 72, respectively.

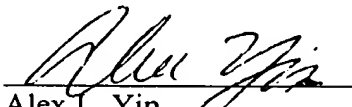
VII. Summary

Having fully addressed the Examiner's reasons for objections and rejection under PCT Rule 66.2, PCT Articles 33(2) and 33(3), it is believed that in view of the amendments made to the Figures, to the specification, and to the claims, and the preceding remarks made herein, that this entire application stands in a condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the number and address below, in order that any outstanding issues may be resolved without the necessity of issuing a further Opinion.

IX. Fees

No fees are believed necessary for filing this amendment. However, if there are any fees due in respect to this amendment, please charge them to Buchanan Ingersoll Deposit Account No. 501507.

Respectfully submitted,


Alex L. Yip
PTO Reg. No. 34,759
Attorney for Applicant
(646) 458-2373

Date: May 31, 2000